

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 24, 2005. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 18-20, and 23-28 are presented for examination. Claim 3 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1 and 18 have been amended as discussed below. Claims 23-28 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 18, and 23 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 3, 4, and 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Claim 18 has been so rewritten and therefore is believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, the allowable subject matter of Claim 3 has been incorporated into Claim 1, and the allowable subject matter of Claim 4 has been incorporated into new independent Claim 23.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 18, and 23 are believed to be allowable.

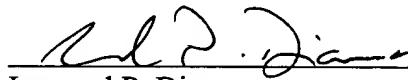
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith, and Applicant respectfully requests return of an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449, indicating that the reference cited thereon was considered. In addition, Applicant notes that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 has not been received for the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 22, 2004.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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